

Marionville, Iowa

January 22, 1951

Dear Betty,

I hope you don't mind my using your first name but this is meant for a friendly - business letter, and I myself get so tired of the "Miss", but of course it is different with me as I always with more-or-less strangers, or at least not the first name friends.

In the last few days after receiving your letter I have been thinking and wondering if there can be any way that we County people can get together and discuss our difficulties. I understand that Dubuque is now organizing separately and suppose Jasper [I don't think that the County that voted some time ago] is working. No doubt both would like a little help. We always got so much out of our County Library meetings in Missouri, and they would be so much more valuable here, where none of the people know what it is all about. Wouldn't mind so much if they'd admit it and put the reins in hands of those who have had some experience etc.

Was sorry to hear about your difficulties, but it sounds crazy to me [Why doesn't Iowa do some checking on other states?] Although we won our case have been told that they are appealing. [Don't think word is spelled correctly, but have no dictionary at home] case. Bookmobile has arrived and am so afraid that the Company may talk other Library Boards into buying such. It surely has killed a large part of my enthusiasm. In the first place they had "Rural Library Service" printed on every available space outside. Inside was not planned by a Librarian - of course Board will think it is wonderful as it has special motor for heat and lights, extension cords etc. - But among other things there is no place for my over size books for children, except vertical second compartments.

I seem to be in a corner far from you three but will gladly pay my own way, if Board should refuse, for a couple of days to thread these things out and help the new people. Can plan my schedule to come most anytime. Have used my own car for fourth trips around to rural schools, but will probably use bus this time of year. Think I could get through to Des Moines O. K.

Does this sound like a crazy idea to you or do you think we can work something out. Perhaps you could contact Dubuque and Jasper, as you may know the people.

Sincerely,
Agnes J. Buskirk

Eladridge, Iowa
February 12, 1951

Dear Agnes,

Sorry not to have answered your letter of January 22 long ago, but I simply have been running such a rat race that I haven't had time for correspondence. Among other things, I went in to Chicago for midwinter ALA meeting from Jan 30 to Feb 6. Got a lot out of it. Well worth the time and effort. Among other things that I accomplished was placing a tentative order for a new bookmobile - tentative to o.k.ing blue prints and specifications. Mr. Wier, of the Gerstenslager Co., suggested that I take a run out to look at the Woodbury Co. bookmobile before definitely deciding what I want. I hope to be able to do that before too long, if you don't mind. I can't say when at this point; but if it's o.k. with you, I'll let you know a week or so ahead of time, so you'll be sure to be around.

I just got wind on Saturday of what the Woodbury Co. people are going to try to get thru the legislature this session by way of scuttling the whole county library set-up. Do you know about it? I'm sorry I don't have an extra copy of the bill, but it's House File 143, and Senate File (oh, dear, I can't remember if and I don't have a copy of it here, either - but it is HF 143 - and both bills, the same, of course) Anyway, I quote - "Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa: . . . Whenever any city, town, or district, being a part of the County Library District, shall decide to withdraw from the County Library District, it may do so by giving notice by registered mail to the Board of Library Trustees of said county library and the county auditor prior to July 10 by the governing body of said city, town, or district, of its withdrawal from the county library district, and thereafter said City, town, or district, shall cease to be a part of or included in said county library district." Now isn't that something?

I spoke to our representative, Mr. Fred Schwengel, who, incidentally introduced our present county library law and worked very hard to get it thru the legislature and he suggested that perhaps it could be that the Woodbury County people did not know just what their own representatives were doing in Des Moines about the matter. I could hardly believe that possible, but perhaps it is. He suggested that if I had any contacts in the county to write to them and tell them to get people working on the legislators from the county to show them that there were more people who opposed the thing than were for it - after all there are more votes outside Corvallis, than within that city's limits. He said, too, that letters from home are very definitely the means of letting our representatives in the legislature know how things stand at home. So if you can get your Mrs. Wendell and the Farm Bureau going on bombarding all your Woodbury County people with letters opposing passage of this bill, it'll help a lot. We simply can't let it get through - it or any other sniping bill. The Bill is before the Schools committee of the House - I suppose the same committee in the Senate. Mr. Schwengel suggested to me that I write to Mrs. Gladys Nelson, Representative from Jasper County, who is on the Schools Committee, and state our case to her. She favors county libraries, and is a good person to contact, he said. I have already written and mailed a letter to her. I hope you can bring pressure to bear on your Woodbury County people.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Hage, Librarian
SCOTT COUNTY LIBRARY